

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$142,000	\$122,000	\$122,000	\$110,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000

Contact: Tom Burke, (702) 293-8711

Start Date: FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY55

Long-Term Goal: Maintain fish rearing capability to provide razorback sucker and bonytail for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, and BONY4

Location: Off-River, Dexter, NM

Purpose: Operate and maintain fish rearing facility; annually contribute razorback sucker (RASU) and bonytail (BONY) to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program and maintain BONY broodstock through completion of Fish Augmentation Program for this species.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to Work Tasks B2, B3, and B10 as fish from Dexter NFH will be delivered to Willow Beach NFH, to Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, and Uvalde NFH. In addition, fish rearing research activities outlined in Work Tasks C10 and C11 may be conducted at Dexter NFH.

Project Description: Dexter NFH is managed and operated by the FWS. The facility maintains the only broodstock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup broodstock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant broodstock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to a length of 500 mm for repatriation to Lake Mohave for broodstock replacement, and annually rear BONY to a length of 300 mm for distribution within Reach 3.

Previous Activities: FWS and Reclamation have past and ongoing interagency agreements to support rearing and research for RASU and BONY at Dexter NFH.

FY05 Accomplishments: Bonytail. FWS staff hand-stripped eggs and sperm from adult BONY females and males, producing 300,000 fry which were stocked into rearing ponds. After these grew to fingerling size, some 18,280 of these fingerlings were transferred to Willow Beach NFH. The remaining fingerlings were held for rearing. Reclamation and FWS staff tagged 556 juvenile BONY that were under the 300 mm target size and placed them into a pond to study tag retention. (These fish will be harvested in 2006.)

Razorback Sucker. During October 2005, FWS and Reclamation staff harvested a grow-out pond which had been stocked in March 2005 with 5,000 RASU from the 2001 year class of Lake Mohave fish. A total of 4,715 fish were harvested (94.3 percent survival over summer). Of these, 136 or 2.7 percent had grown to the target size of 350 mm. These 136 fish were PIT tagged and hauled to Lake Mohave and released. The remaining 4,579 RASU were returned to pond for continued grow-out. A subset of 556 individuals from these RASU was PIT tagged prior to being returned to the pond to evaluate growth, survival, and tag retention.

FY06 Activities: Maintain BONY broodstock; produce up to 75,000 fingerling BONY for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility; rear 500 to 1,000 RASU, 50 cm in length, for repatriation to Lake Mohave; and rear 4,000 BONY, 300 mm in length, for distribution within Reaches 3. Analyze recapture of tagged fish and evaluate over-winter growth, survival and PIT tag retention.

Proposed FY07 Activities: Maintain BONY broodstock; produce up to 75,000 fingerling BONY for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility; rear 500 to 1,000 RASU, 50 cm in length, for repatriation to Lake Mohave; and rear 4,000 BONY, 300 mm in length, for distribution within Reaches 3-5.

Pertinent Reports: Study plan is available upon request for PIT tag retention work.